

After Cityhall



A Publication of the Police & Fire Retirement System

June 2002 Vol. 8, No. 1

New Retirees

Retiree	Department	Date
Stephen D. Cole	Police	3/2002
Gary S. Teague	Police	3/2002

In Memoriam

Retiree	Department	Date
Clark V. Benson	Police	5/2002
Venita A. Braitsche	Fire (widow of R.P.)	3/2002
Helen M. Brockway	Fire (widow of George)	3/2002
Helen L. Coleman	Fire (widow of Kenneth)	3/2002
A. M. Dunlap	Fire	11/2001
Jack R. Hatfield	Fire	1/2002
Mildred E. Kailer	Fire (widow of F.J.)	1/2002

Pension Manager Retiring

After more than 33 years of service, Bob Lancaster will be joining the ranks of retirees on October 18, 2002. Bob began his career with the City of Wichita in the Health Department. After twenty years, he transferred to the Finance Department's Budget Office where he worked as a Senior Budget Analyst for six years. In 1995, he came to the Pension Management Office as Assistant Pension Manager, and was promoted to Pension Manager in 1999.

Over the past seven years in the Pension Management Office, Bob has helped provide the leadership to bring about major changes to enhance retirement benefits available to employees and retirees. During his tenure, the plan received an updated letter of qualification from the IRS, the benefit for unused sick leave was increased to 2.5%, accumulated contributions to the Plan were increased by 5% annual interest, and the surviving spouse definition was updated. Additionally, the Backward Deferred Retirement Option Plan (Back DROP) was implemented to encourage long-time experienced employees to continue their careers with the City.

Pension Staff will sorely miss Bob's leadership, knowledge, wit, and involvement with all areas of responsibilities. His will be large shoes to fill.

Of Interest

What Happened to My Pension Check?

After years of pension checks being delivered on time, many of the May checks were not received by the 1st (or the 2nd or the 3rd...).

The process of finding the checks began. Our custodial bank, The Northern Trust Company, confirmed that the checks had been processed and mailed as scheduled; and immediately began looking for the delinquent checks. They reported that after being mailed from Chicago, the checks were routed through a post office distribution center where problems had been reported.

After five business days, Staff began issuing stop payments for the original checks and re-issuing new checks. As luck would have it, many of the original checks (with a stopped payment) were received prior to the re-issued check.

The Pension Office Staff offers a heartfelt "thank you" to our pensioners for their patience and understanding during this difficult time. While we hope this never happens again, *the only assurance we can offer is that the checks will continue to be mailed on time.*

The Solution – Direct (Electronic) Deposit

Approximately 76% of City retirees currently have their monthly benefit checks electronically deposited directly into their bank accounts. This service is free, secure, reliable, and convenient. You do not have to worry about lost, stolen, or damaged checks, having your check deposited when you are out of town or unable to get to your bank. Direct deposit ensures that your check is deposited on time, even if there is a disruption of postal service.

To sign up for Direct Deposit, return the form with your check stub or call the Pension Office.

State Income Tax – To Remember

Your City of Wichita pension benefit may be subject to **federal** income tax. However, if you live in Kansas, you do NOT pay **state** income tax on your benefit. This state tax exemption is specifically addressed in Kansas Statutes Annotated. If you have been paying Kansas Income Tax on your pension benefit, you may be able to file an amended return. Please be sure your tax preparer is familiar with K.S.A. 74-4923(b) and K.S.A. 74-4901, et. seq.

If you live outside of Kansas, check with your state to determine if your pension benefit is taxed in that state.

Take a New Look at Your Pension Check

Whether you receive an actual check or a "Non Negotiable" deposit advice (direct deposit), there are useful forms attached:

- Federal Tax Election Form (for making changes to your federal income tax deduction)
- KS State Tax Election Form (changes to Kansas Income Tax deduction)
- Electronic Deposit Authorization Form (to begin direct deposit of your check)
- Address Change Form

Use these forms when requesting a change of income tax withholding, a change of mailing address and phone number, or to begin direct deposit of your check.

The forms provide your written authorization for changes to your account and permanent file.

Mail or bring the completed forms to:

Pension Management
City Hall, 12th Floor
455 N. Main
Wichita, KS 67202

Stay Connected with Wichita

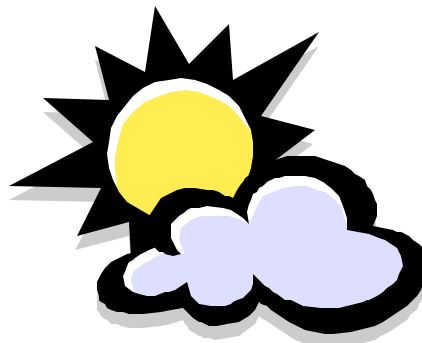
Want to know the latest things happening at City Hall? Visit the City's web page at www.wichitagov.org. You will find the latest things happening in the city including animals available for adoption at the Animal Shelter, what's happening at the library, current air quality, and the classes available at your local recreation center. Want to contact Pension Staff? You'll find their email addresses if you click on the link to the Finance Department and Treasury.

Board of Directors

Ron Aaron	Fire
Carolyn Conley (Pres.)	Appointee
Jim Faith (1 st V. Pres.)	Appointee
Larry Garcia	Fire Chief
Jack Graham	Appointee
Mike Hill	Appointee
Terry Kloppenberg	Fire
Kevan Lager	Police
Mike Malter	Fire
Roy Mitchell	Police
David Moses	Appointee
Kathy Newsom	Appointee
Stephanie Schroeder (2 nd V. Pres.)	Appointee
Ray Trail	City Mgr. Designee
Norman Williams	Police Chief

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